

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062440

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062440

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 3399 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN
CAIRO DAMASCUS JERUSALEM JIDDA TEL AVIV MOSCOW KUWAIT
BAGHDAD BY POUCH DATED 18 MAR 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D N T I A L BEIRUT 3399

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLO JO UR XF

SUBJECT: 'ARAFAT-VINOGRADOV TALKS IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 3351

1. ACCORDING TO SPECIAL MAR 18 REPORT IN LOCAL FRENCH-
LANGUAGE DAILY, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, RECENT TALKS BETWEEN
'ARAFAT AND ROVING SOV AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV (REFTEL)
DWELT HEAVILY ON JORDANIAN GOVT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD
GENEVA CONFERENCE AND QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.
APPARENTLY ENERGIZED BY BOGUS REPORT RE
VINOGRADOV'S VIEWS ON LATTER SUBJECT CARRIED IN AMMAN'S
AR RAYY MAR 15 (AMMAN 1760) AND BY KING HUSSEIN'S
REPORTED REITERATION TO VINOGRADOV THAT GOJ WOULD NOT
ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE UNLESS SOME FUTURE ARAB SUMMIT
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PAGE 02 STATE 062440

MEETING REVERSED RABAT SUMMIT DECISIONS ACCORDING

SOLE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVITY TO PLO, 'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY WENT TO GREAT LENGTH TO IMPRESS ON VINOGRADOV THAT PLO VIOLENTLY OPPOSES ANY TAMPERING WITH OR BACKSLIDING FROM RABAT RESOLUTIONS. IN THIS SAME CONTEXT, L'ORIENT REPORTS THAT PLO LEADERSHIP CAN BE EXPECTED EMBARK ON YET ANOTHER INTENSIFIED POLITICAL/PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AIMED AT VILLIFYING GOJ AND PERSUADING AS MANY ARAB GOVTS AS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT "SANCTITY" OF RABAT RESOLUTIONS AND OPPOSE DEALINGS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER.

2. WE ALSO NOTE THAT VINOGRADOV, IN DEPARTING BEIRUT FOR MOSCOW MAR 17, RESPONDED TO PRESS QUERIES RE SOV ATTITUDE TOWARD CURRENT KISSINGER MISSION BY SAYING: "LEAVE MR. KISSINGER TO GET ON WITH HIS WORK." ACCORDING TO NEWSMEN PRESENT, HIS LACONIC COMMENT WAS DELIVERED IN TONE WHICH CLEARLY WAS MEANT TO CONVEY MEANING ALONG LINE OF "GIVE HIM ENOUGH ROPE, ETC."

3. COMMENT: WE FIND L'ORIENT REPORT OF 'ARAFAT-VINOGRADOV MEETING HIGHLY PLAUSIBLE. ALTHOUGH PLO LEADERSHIP'S HABITUAL FEARS AND SUSPICION OF EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH KING HUSSEIN ARE HARDLY NEW, WELL-PUBLICIZED REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO JORDANIAN OFFICIALS AND VINOGRADOV IN AMMAN WERE ALMOST CERTAIN TO PROVOKE KNEE-JERK RESPONSE FROM 'ARAFAT AND CO. (AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THEIR FEARS AND SUSPICIONS HAVE ALSO LATELY BEEN COMPOUNDED BY APPREHENSIONS RE AN EGYPTIAN "SELL-OUT" IN SINAI.) TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS FROM AMMAN OF GOJ DECISION TO DELAY ELECTION OF NEW PARLIAMENT WILL PROBABLY SERVE TO HEIGHTEN THEIR APPREHENSIONS EVEN FURTHER AND PROMPT THEM TO REGARD ASSAD'S PROPOSAL FOR JOINT PLO/SYRIAN COMMAND WITH INCREASING FAVOR.

4. WE NOTE THAT REPORTING RE VINOGRADOV'S "PRIVATE" VISIT TO LEBANON CONTAINS NO MENTION OF ANY CONTACTS WITH GOL OFFICIALS. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THIS PROTOCOL LAPSE, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH VINOGRADOV'S HIGHLY PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT, DID NOT SIT WELL WITH PRES. FRANGIE. WE ALSO NOTE THAT NEITHER SOVS NOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 062440

PLO SPOKESMEN REFERRED TO 'ARAFAT'S ALLEGED INTENTION TO VISIT MOSCOW IN NEAR FUTURE, AN OMISSION WHICH TENDS CONFIRM INFO REPORTED DAASCUS 1019.

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